

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler, comprising:
 - a needle adapted to ~~suck~~draw a sample from a sample liquid bath and to inject the sample into a sample introducing portion which is in fluid communication with a column of a liquid chromatography;
 - a first rinsing bath adapted to contain a first rinsing liquid;
 - a second rinsing bath adapted to contain at least one kind of second rinsing liquid;
 - an exchanging mechanism operable to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath; and
 - a controller, configured to ~~selectively-execute~~ at least one of a first rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and exchanges the second rinsing liquid while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for rinsing a needle of an automatic sampler, said method comprising:

providing a first rinsing bath containing a first rinsing liquid;

providing a second rinsing bath containing a second rinsing liquid; ~~and~~

~~selectively executing~~ causing an operator to select at least one of a first rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and the second rinsing liquid is exchanged while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath; and
executing the at least one of the first rinsing operation and the second rinsing operation selected by the operator.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for rinsing a needle of an automatic sampler according to claim 3, further comprising:

selecting one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid to be supplied to the second rinsing bath to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An automatic sampler ~~according to claim 1,~~
~~further comprising:~~

a needle adapted to draw a sample from a sample liquid bath and to inject the sample into a sample introducing portion which is in fluid communication with a column of a liquid chromatography;

a first rinsing bath adapted to contain first rinsing liquid;

_____ a second rinsing bath adapted to contain at least one kind of second rinsing liquid;

_____ a controller, configured to execute at least one of a first rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and exchanges the second rinsing liquid while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath; and

_____ a pump fluidly connected to the second liquid bath irrespective of a position of the needle,

wherein said pump is configured to be controlled by the controller to supply the second rinsing liquid to the second rinsing bath so as to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath.

6. (Previously Presented) The automatic sampler according to claim 5, further comprising:

a switcher, configured to select one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid supplied to the second rinsing bath.